

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144863
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-05 HA-05 NEA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /099 R

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EUR/RPM:ECLARK

-----105836 080147Z /62

P 080015Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CSCE, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CSCE COMMISSION

1. THE FOURTH SEMIANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE CSCE COMMISSION WAS RELEASED JUNE 6. IT COVERS THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1, 1977 TO JUNE 1, 1978. THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES ON POLAND APPEAR IN THE BASKET III PORTION:

2. IN THE SUBSECTION ON REUNIFICATION BEGIN QUOTE: WHILE THE POLISH GOVERNMENT RESOLVED 35 REUNIFICATION CASES BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECEMBER VISIT, AND WHILE WE VALUE EVERY SUCH CASE RESOLVED, POLAND'S OVERALL RECORD ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION REMAINS IN GLARING CONTRADICTION TO THE COMMITMENTS AGREED UPON AT HELSINKI. THE LEVELS OF SUCH EMIGRATION HAVE, ON THE AVERAGE, DECLINED SINCE 1966 AND REMAIN LOWER NOW THAN BEFORE SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL ACT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NUMBER OF UNRESOLVED HARSHIP CASES HAS

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INCREASED STEADILY TO BECOME THE HIGHEST IN THE WARSAW PACT. DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD, BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE RAISED ISSUES OF EMIGRATION AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION DURING THEIR DECEMBER VISIT TO POLAND, AND WE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT REGARDING THESE MATTERS ON OTHER OCCASIONS AS WELL. WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH

IS AMONG THE MOST SERIOUS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
END QUOTE.

3. IN THE SUBSECTION ON FAMILY VISITS, BEGIN QUOTE:
THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTINUED TO HAVE
THE STRICTEST POLICIES IN THIS REGARD, WHILE POLAND'S
RECORD REMAINED MIXED. ALTHOUGH THOUSANDS OF POLISH-
AMERICANS RETURN TO POLAND FOR FAMILY VISITS EACH YEAR,
WE HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO RAISE WITH POLISH AUTHORI-
TIES A NUMBER OF CASES OF UNEXPLAINED VISA DENIALS,
INCLUDING SOME TO FORMER POLES OF JEWISH BACKGROUND
WHO LEFT POLAND IN THE LATE 1960'S. BECAUSE FAMILY
VISITS ARE NO LESS A HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVE OF THE
FINAL ACT THAN PERMANENT FAMILY REUNIFICATION, WE CON-
TINUED TO WATCH OFFICIALLY STIFLED REQUESTS FOR SUCH
VISITS AND TO REPRESENT SPECIFIC CASES TO THE GOVERNMENTS
CONCERNED. END QUOTE.

4. IN THE SUBSECTION ON RELIGIOUS CONTACTS AND INFORMA-
TION, BEGIN QUOTE: IN POLAND, AUTHORITIES INVITED
JEWISH LEADERS, INCLUDING MANY FROM ISRAEL, TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW
GHETTO UPRISING. THERE WERE ALSO VISITS BY AMERICAN
JEWISH LEADERS AND BY AMERICAN CATHOLIC OFFICIALS. IT
WAS ANNOUNCED AS WELL THAT EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM WOULD
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VISIT POLAND THIS FALL. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, REPORTS, COMMISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE144863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0903
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780679/aaaacqaa.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29f6c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2425793
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CSCE COMMISSION
TAGS: PFOR, PL, US, CSCE
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29f6c58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014